



OKLAHOMA
COMMISSION ON
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

OCCY's Parent Partnership Board

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Key Takeaways

- ▶ **Defining Parent Partnership**
- ▶ **Why Partner with Parents?**
- ▶ **Steps to Create a Culturally-Diverse Parent Partnership Board**
- ▶ **Next steps to launch OCCY PPB**



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Defining Parent Partnership

Alliance's definition of parent partnership:

- ▶ Involves commissioners, staff, policymakers and parents who all make an active choice to sustain a meaningful relationship in working toward an agreed upon goal in areas related to planning, implementation, evaluation and oversight
- ▶ **Parents** are acknowledged as experts in what is needed for their family and community and provided with supports to ensure their ability to contribute in a meaningful way.
- ▶ **Staff/policymakers/commissioners** commit to providing information and other supportive resources including an accessible contact person for the parents and helping other staff, commissioners and policymakers fully engage with the parents.

“Nothing about us, without us”



Why Partner with Parents?

Expands opportunities for parents who have previously received services to be mentors and powerful resources for families currently using services

Engages parents with expertise to recommend improvements in policies, programs and funding to address specific needs of parents, children and youth and communities.



Key Elements of a True Partnership

- ▶ Authentic engagement
- ▶ Shared goals and shared power
- ▶ Shared knowledge and resources (understanding what parents need to remain strong and healthy)
- ▶ Shared problem-solving (identifying the strengths and problems, identifying the strategies and taking actions)
- ▶ Shared successes and celebrations
- ▶ Mutual respect and trust
- ▶ Open, honest and non-judgmental communication
- ▶ Strengths-based
- ▶ Cross-sector collaboration

The OCCY Parent Partnership Board may serve as a Hub for connecting boards and councils across disciplines at the local, state and national levels to increase cross-sector collaboration and a pipeline of parent leaders



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Increasing access with Informed Policies

Public-Private Funding with Statewide Coalitions

Cross-Sector Training with Local Community Coalitions

Coordinating Services at Family Resource Centers

Building Leadership Skills with Advisory Councils

Amplifying Diverse Family Voices with Lived Experience



Examples of Ways Parents Can Work with Commissioners

- ▶ Share the parent's experience in front of governmental bodies (council meetings, commissions, etc.)
- ▶ Represent the parent perspective on Commission workgroups, task forces, or community-based committees to increase coordination
- ▶ Review and help develop requests for proposals, policies, written publications, brochures, needs assessments, etc. (e.g., family friendly, etc.)
- ▶ Assist with strategic planning for the organization and community
- ▶ Help raise awareness about services and resources available to families
- ▶ Help translate data into real life situations affecting children and families by sharing their families' stories about organizational services via social media, public media, etc.
- ▶ Mentor, coach or train other parents to take on leadership roles in their community
- ▶ Utilize parent partnership board members as co-trainers with organizational staff (e.g. Protective Factors training, hosting Community Cafes, etc.)

Steps to Create a Parent Partnership Board

A Planning Group is currently working to:

- Develop a Parent Partnership Board role description
- Identify a designated staff member to support the Parent Partnership Board
- Determine budget and coordinated Funding
- Develop and implement a recruitment and selection process
- Plan and hold orientation meetings and trainings
- Support regular meetings of the Parent Partnership Board
- Provide individual coaching and support to members of the Parent Partnership Board
- Evaluate and Provide Support for Long-Term Success

Benefits of a Parent Partnership Board

- ▶ Advances infrastructure to support meaningful and authentic partnerships between parents and systems providers
- ▶ Reduces barriers to helping families access needed resources and supports
- ▶ Increases leadership capacity and expertise of parents at the local, state and national levels
- ▶ Improves policies and practices for children and families across systems within Oklahoma
- ▶ Increases the likelihood that the systems will be coordinated, used and successful



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Next steps to launch PPB

- ▶ Increase support and cross-system collaboration around family voice
- ▶ Each Commissioner is invited to be involved in our OCCY PPB planning meetings that are held monthly
- ▶ Each Commissioner is invited to nominate parents within one of their family voice initiatives to increase alignment
- ▶ Review Press Release



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THANK YOU

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